

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:
 - A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining an internal passage, the airway tube further defining a first notch, the first notch extending along a length of the tube from a location on the tube towards the distal end of the tube;
 - B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the internal passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar, the bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the bar defining an aperture, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position;
 - C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end and a lens connected to the distal end of the fibers, the fibers extending through the first notch, the lens being disposed near the aperture defined by the bar when the bar is in the resting position, the fibers and lens providing a view of a region that extends from the lens through the aperture defined by the bar.
2. (original) A device according to claim 1, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a second notch, the fibers extending

through the second notch.

3. (original) A device according to claim 2, proximal end of the bar being attached to the backplate.

4. (original) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:

- A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining an internal passage, the airway tube further defining a first notch, the first notch extending along a length of the tube from a location on the tube towards the distal end of the tube;
- B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate and an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the internal passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a supporting surface that supports a portion of an endotracheal tube when the endotracheal tube is inserted through the airway tube of the device, the ramp defining a second notch, the second notch being spaced apart from the supporting surface;
- C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the fibers extending through the first notch and the second notch.

5. (original) A device according to claim 4, further including a lens, the lens being attached to at least some of the fibers, the lens being spaced apart from the supporting surface.

6. (original) A device according to claim 5, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position, the distal end of the bar defining an aperture, the lens being disposed proximal to the aperture defined by the distal end of the bar when the bar is in the resting position.
7. (original) A device according to claim 4, further including a collar, the collar defining an aperture, the fibers extending through the aperture defined in the collar.
8. (original) A device according to claim 7, the collar being disposed adjacent to the ramp.
9. (original) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:
 - A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining an internal passage, the airway tube further defining a first notch, the first notch extending along a length of the tube from a location on the tube towards the distal end of the tube;
 - B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate and an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the internal passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a second notch;

- C. a collar disposed adjacent to the ramp, the collar defining an aperture;
 - D. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the fibers extending through the first notch, the second notch, and the aperture defined in the collar.
10. (original) A device according to claim 9, the collar defining at least one notch.
11. (previously presented) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:
- A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining a first passage;
 - B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the first passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar, the bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the bar defining an aperture, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position;
 - C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end and a lens connected to the distal end of the fibers, the lens being disposed near the aperture defined by the bar when the bar is in the resting position, the proximal end of the fibers being disposed outside the mouth of the patient when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the fibers and lens providing a view of a region that extends from the lens through the aperture defined by the bar.

12. (previously presented) A device according to claim 11, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a second passage, the fibers extending through the second passage.

13. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12, further including a collar, the collar defining a third passage, the fibers extending through the third passage

14. (previously presented) A device according to claim 13, the collar being disposed between the ramp and the bar.

15. (previously presented) A device according to claim 12, proximal end of the bar being attached to the backplate.

16. (previously presented) A device according to claim 11, the airway tube defining an additional passage, at least some of the optical fibers extending through the additional passage.

17. (previously presented) A device according to claim 11, the bar being movable from the resting position to the open position by insertion of an endotracheal tube through the airway tube.

18. (previously presented) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:

A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining a first passage;

B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate and an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a

mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the first passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a supporting surface that supports a portion of an endotracheal tube when the endotracheal tube is inserted through the airway tube of the device, the ramp defining a second passage, the second passage being spaced apart from the supporting surface;

C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the fibers extending through the second passage.

19. (previously presented) A device according to claim 18, further including a lens, the lens being attached to at least some of the fibers, the lens being spaced apart from the supporting surface.

20. (previously presented) A device according to claim 19, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position, the distal end of the bar defining an aperture, the lens being disposed proximal to the aperture defined by the distal end of the bar when the bar is in the resting position.

21. (previously presented) A device according to claim 20, the bar being movable from the resting position to the open position by insertion of an endotracheal tube through the airway tube.

22. (previously presented) A device according to claim 18, further including a collar,

the collar defining a third passage, the fibers extending through the third passage.

23. (previously presented) A device according to claim 22, the collar being disposed adjacent to the ramp.

24. (previously presented) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:

- A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining a first passage;
- B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate and an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the first passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a second passage;
- C. a collar disposed adjacent to the ramp, the collar defining a third passage;
- D. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the fibers extending through the second passage and the third passage.

25. (previously presented) A device according to claim 24, the collar defining at least one notch.

26. (previously presented) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:

- A. an airway tube having a proximal end and a distal end and defining a first

passage;

- B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the first passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the proximal end of the airway tube being outside the patient's mouth when the cuff is at the inserted location, the cuff having a distal end, the distal end of the cuff being a part of the cuff that is furthest from the proximal end of the airway tube;
 - C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end and a lens connected to the distal end of the fibers, the lens being affixed to the mask portion, the proximal end of the fibers being outside the patient's mouth when the cuff is at the inserted location, the fibers and lens providing a view of a region that extends from the lens through the central opening of the cuff, the lens being disposed such that a subsequently inserted endotracheal tube does not occlude a portion of the region, the portion of the region being between the endotracheal tube and the distal tip of the cuff.
27. (previously presented) A device according to claim 26, the airway tube being rigid.
28. (previously presented) A device according to claim 26, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar, the bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the bar defining an aperture, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position,

the lens being positioned such that the region extends from the lens, through the aperture of the bar, and through the central opening of the cuff, when the bar is in the resting position.

29. (previously presented) A device according to claim 28, the proximal end of the bar being attached to the cuff.

30. (previously presented) A device according to claim 28, the bar being positioned such that the subsequently inserted endotracheal tube pushes the bar from the resting position to the open position.

31. (previously presented) A device according to claim 30, the aperture of the bar being outside of the region when the bar is in the open position.

32. (previously presented) A device according to claim 28, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate, the backplate being attached to the cuff.

33. (new) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:

- A. an airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining a first passage;
- B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the first passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask

portion is at the inserted location, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar, the bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the bar defining an aperture, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position;

- C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end and a lens connected to the distal end of the fibers, the lens being disposed near the aperture defined by the bar when the bar is in the resting position, the proximal end of the fibers being disposed outside the mouth of the patient when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the fibers and lens providing a view of a region that extends from the lens through the aperture defined by the bar.

34. (new) A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:

- A. an airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining a first channel;
- B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the first passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location;
- C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the fibers extending through the first channel, and a lens connected to the distal end of the fibers, the lens being affixed to the mask portion, the proximal end of the fibers being disposed outside the mouth of the patient when the mask portion is at

the inserted location;

- D. a collar disposed adjacent to the distal end of the fibers, a surface of the collar defining a first notch in the collar.

35. (new) A device according to claim 34, the surface of the first notch being disposed between the lens and an endotracheal tube when the endotracheal tube is inserted through the airway tube such that a distal end of the endotracheal tube extends though the cuff's central opening.

36. (new) A device according to claim 35, the surface and first notch being located such that at least a portion of a lubricant on the endotracheal tube is scraped off the endotracheal tube and collects in the first notch when the endotracheal tube contacts the surface as the endotracheal tube is advanced through the airway tube.

37. (new) A device according to claim 34, the surface further defining a second notch in the collar.

39. (new) A device according to claim 37, the surface and second notch being located such that at least a portion of a lubricant on the endotracheal tube is scraped off the endotracheal tube and collects in the second notch when the endotracheal tube contacts the surface as the endotracheal tube is retracted through the airway tube.

40. (new) The device of claim 34, the mask portion further including an epiglottis elevator bar, the bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the bar defining an aperture, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position.

41. (new) The device of claim 34, the mask portion including a dome-shaped backplate, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a second channel, the fibers extending through the second channel.